Nation

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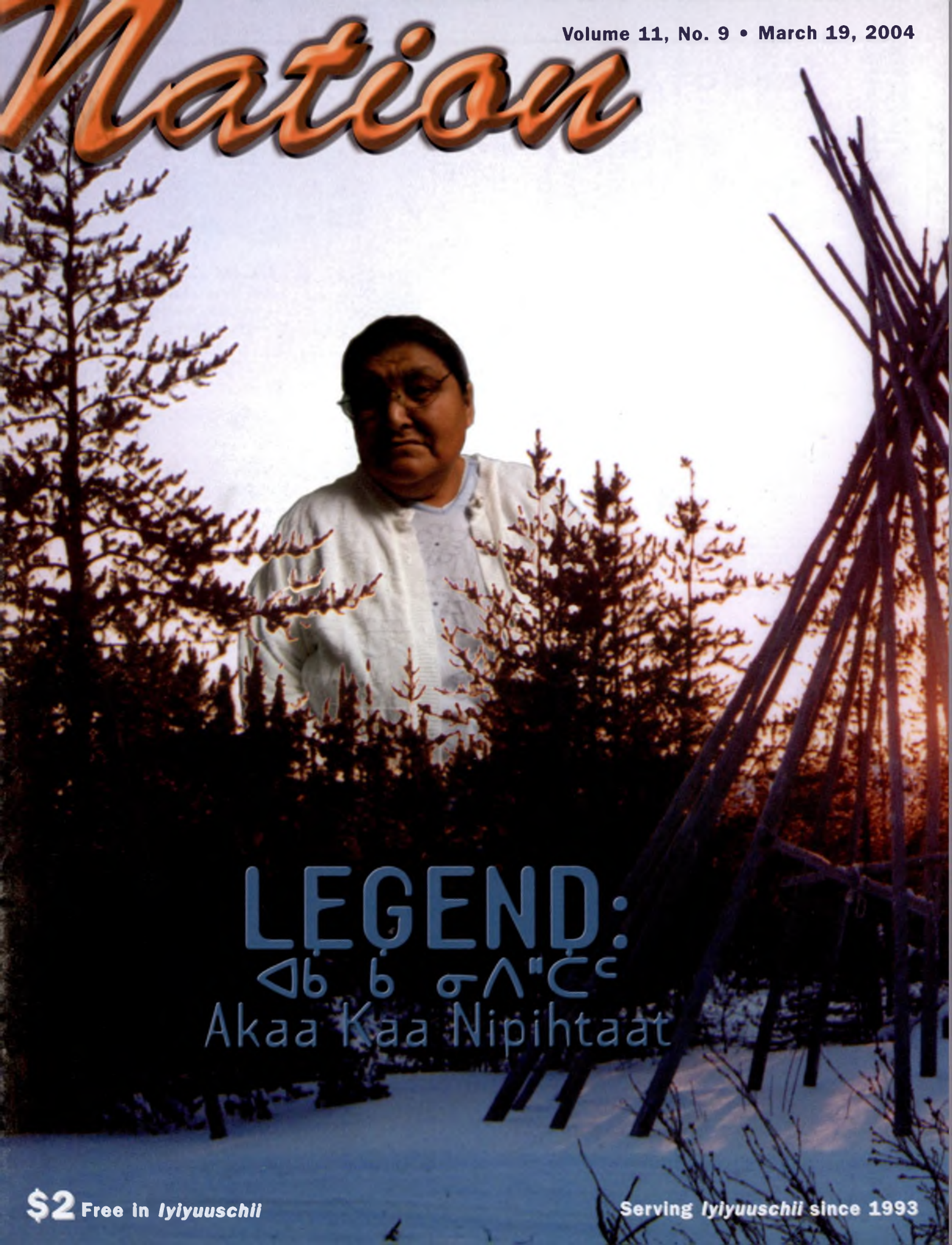

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Carving Out a Future

Will Nicholls

Looking carefully at the rocks and antlers the carver chooses his materials. He gathers his tools and smiles. His chisels and saws sharp and files standing by. He is ready to start. He is set to carve his beautiful dream. A concept that exists inside of him but one he would show the world.

He carves diligently, slowly, nurturing the form within the stone. As it slowly takes shape it seems to assume a life of its own. It nears completion.

A moments distraction, a sound, a head turned, a heavier pressure and at that moment a fracture marring the carvings perfection. Weeks of work gone in a flash. There is anger but what to blame? The ears that heard a strange sound? The fingers that misjudged? The eyes that leapt away? The brain for allowing the distraction to take away the finished image and judgment necessary for its completion? The stone for its weakness?

In truth it was none and yet all. For all was needed in order to make a thing of beauty come alive and to live in this world.

The reason why I tell this story is because of what I hear. I hear of problems in the communities concerning youth. Not enough graduations and school attendance, of bullying, of ignoring curfews and other problems. And in these problems there are tendencies to blame the police or the school administration, the school committees, education officers, the Cree School Board or other entities like the Band Council.

Some of these blames have no logic like a carver blaming just his ears, his fingers or his eyes for a work that is not the perfection he saw inside. Anger has its own logic and most of it is self-defeating as it clouds the visions and concepts of life.

Instead of spending time laying the blame we should become more unified. All parts of a community are needed to deal with problems of this magnitude. We need the schools, including the teachers, committees, administrators, etc, the Band Council, the police, social services, the Youth Council, parents and the youth all working together in order to solve these problems.

It is not to say that we have not made progress. For there has been progress that we have all seen. One only has to look at the success of the many Wellness Journey's or the Cultural Exchange Gathering that Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui are having for two quick examples.

There are many more out there but somehow this has proved to be less than what is needed when it comes to life within the Cree communities. It is time for us to share our dreams, visions and concepts of what our community should be. It is not a time to blame but a time to reconcile. It is time for all of us to work together as one to make the image or concept of a beautiful community happen. Let us gather our tools and make our dreams real for our communities.

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In Appreciation of Your Love and Support

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Storyteller Mary Sandy Sr. in beautiful Iyiyuuschii

No Pain, No Gain

By Sonny Orr

As I was growing up, and learned the values of right and wrong, I often wondered what type of person I would be today, if I hadn't been taught what was the difference between right and wrong. I know that for many parents today, the idea of restricting your child's movements and reprimanding them for doing wrong make the modern day parent feel guilty of abusing and hurting their children. I know that first hand, that a child, no matter the age, cannot know the difference between right and wrong unless you tell them.

Its like the video games that keep a child quiet for hours, often coming out for fresh air and blackened eyes from lack of sleep on occasion. Heck, the toys these days have only one purpose, then when a child wearies of that singular purpose, whether it's a doll that bleats the same phrase over and over again, or the oft frustrating ending of a chapter in a video game, they are all designed not to make your child happy, but to make the toymakers shareholders happy.

In my day, we had a toy that had a thousand and one uses and lasted for years. Yep, it was called a ball. Another toy that didn't cost a pretty penny which took the form of anything you wished it to be was called plasticine, or later on, silly putty. Another toy which came from everyone is back yard, which could be transformed into a deadly (yet imaginary) weapon, was called a stick. These ageless toys kept us company for years and years, at least until we discovered the opposite sex.

Many a parent has struggled with their bank books to appease modern day children, (who sometime grow into the second decade of their lives), with the constant gimmee, gimmee, gimmee, which we tend to understand now, that the child is still mentally active. These children sometimes have their own children at an early stage of their physical development, and are totally unaware of the life they have in their care. Some children grow up to be bullies, never satisfied until they wreak their havoc with the elderly (whom they consider to be an elder thirty five years old). Some children never ever experience the joy of the reprimand or the spanking (God forbid, isn't that child abuse?), because it is not a modern concept. Children should experience the pains of growing up, so that they don't have to learn it when they are old enough to fend for themselves. It is like a butterfly emerging from the cocoon. If the butterfly, while existing its tightly restricting womb, does not force itself enough, the capillaries that carry the important bodily fluids cannot reach the extremities of its exoskeleton, therefore cannot grow into a beautiful living organism. It will die a pitiful death. It is the same for a child, you must allow it to experience the pains of life, in order to grow and understand them and to know the difference.

I may sound like a preacher, but in many ways, I am. I believe in the joys of life and the laughter that comes from those joys, but I also know that true joy can only be real if true pain is there to balance those feelings. It is the same for a parent, a family, a community and a growing nation. No pain, no gain.

I am saying these things because I witness many times the results of a community that ignores the need to have a structured life, which includes the values that we hold dear, such as love, caring, sharing etc.. . but those things are meaningless without knowing the other side of the coin. Sometimes it takes a bad kid to make you see the good ones, sometimes it takes a great mistake to make you appreciate the right side of life.

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Education Alarm

Mistissini looks for answers to high drop-out rates in public meeting

by tsa

Native communities across Canada are facing an education crisis, and the James Bay Cree are not immune.

Nationwide, Native students had an average school completion rate that was almost half that of the national average in the 1999-2000 school year: 39 per cent compared to 75 per cent for the rest of the population. In 2001-2002, as many students in the Cree School Board interrupted or quit school as those who actually graduated.

It's a problem that school officials and parents will attempt to tackle March 25 in Mistissini. There will be a public presentation for parents about the dispute over the teaching of the second language, the CLIP program and drop-out rates. It will be attended by the Mistissini school administration, the Mistissini school commission, the school committee, the Mistissini band council and Cree School Board members.

In 2001-2002, there were 898 students in schools throughout the Cree communities. Of them, 94 were in secondary 5, and 61 graduated. Thirty-seven others quit school due to low motivation, 22 students were asked to leave and six students left for traditional teaching.

In all, 65 students left school without graduating. On top of that, each student on average missed 38 days out of a possible 189 school days. Reasons cited for quitting include low motivation, being asked to leave by the school and leaving for traditional pursuits.

According to statistics obtained from the Cree School Board, the number of students in school drops dramatically after Secondary 3, Grade 9. For example, in Ouje-Bougoumou in 2000-2001, none of the students in Grade 10 went on to Grade 11 the next year, and none of the students who had been in Grade 9 went to Grade 10. For two years, there were no graduates out of a potential 26 students.

These numbers are cause for great alarm, as today's youth are going to be the leaders of tomorrow. In this increasingly high tech world, having a formal education and a high school diploma is key to obtaining and keeping employment. For the Cree, education is doubly important because of the nature of the various agreements, the autonomy that exists under these agreements and the employment opportunities that spring from them.

According to statistics obtained from the Cree School Board, the number of students in school drops dramatically after Secondary 3, Grade 9.

Why are the students dropping out? According to the Cree School Board's findings, the leading reason is "low motivation." In a Toronto Star article dated January 31, students hanging out at the mall were quoted as finding school "boring." Some blame it on the welfare system, stating that the subsidies will take care of people without them having to work.

Independent research commissioned by Mistissini has shown that the Cree Instructional Language Program (CLIP) may be a factor for why students are not staying in school. Under CLIP, students are immersed in the Cree language from kindergarten to Grade 3. At Grade 2, a second language is introduced. Then in Grade 7 instruction begins in a third language. To be fair the school says that students have been weaker in English, French or Cree curriculums.

Research shows that students, who are otherwise healthy and of normal or above average intelligence, are struggling with the multiple languages of instruction. While it is normal to retain at least 80 per cent of taught information, the Cree students are only at 55 per cent.

The Vice-Principal at Voyageur Memorial High School in Mistissini, says research demonstrates that, "as the [students] came through the system, the mother tongue wasn't getting stronger, it was getting weaker, so when they were transferred into the second language there wasn't enough there to transfer. By the time they got to Grade 3, it was at zero per cent."

Some teachers say that it's too late to introduce the second language in Grade 2; that the kids are not picking it up. So the parents suggested 50-50 instruction: half in Cree, half in a second language.

However, "We cannot do that according to school policy," says the Vice-Principal. "We can be fired for implementing something like that. To change all that, we have to go to the public, the parents. We tell them of the four to five options that they can choose, and then we will take it to the Cree School Board."

As for the drop-out rate, "We don't call someone a dropout," says the Vice-Principal. "The researcher tells us that a student does not drop out of secondary I if he's only got a Grade 5 level."

Whatever the reasons, students are leaving both high school and elementary school. "What we are hoping from this meeting is that the parents will agree to a lot of changes that need to be done at the schools," says the Vice-Principal. "Each community is different in terms of the language of exposure. We have to look at the community and adapt the program according to the community."

The meeting will start at 9 am March 25. For more information on the presentation, please contact Alain Bellemare at Voyageur Memorial School, 418-923-3485.

Khayden Otter update

Khayden Otter,s condition is improving from day to day, according to his grandfather, Ronnie Otter. He is able to go for walks in the hospital with his mother, Judy, is no longer on oxygen and is slowly looking better.

As reported in the last issue of the Nation, Khayden Otter was found beaten and unconscious in his foster home on February 8. His foster father, Trevor Spencer, was charged with assault.

Khayden is expected to undergo some more tests and will be in the hospital for an undetermined period of time.

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La *Société Apatisiiwin* et la *Commission scolaire Crie* travaillent en partenariat pour s'assurer que les Cris Eeyou profitent des divers parcours de formation qui ouvriront les portes à l'emploi chez *Hydro-Québec*. Venez découvrir les univers excitants des disciplines variées guarantissant un emploi d'après l'Entente.

For more information and application forms, contact the **CHRD, Cree School Board of Sabtuan Continuing Education** *or* **participating Guidance Counsellors** *located in High Schools and Post Secondary Student Services.* **Please note, the application deadline is APRIL 16TH 2004.**

Pour plus de l'information et des formulaires demande d'admission, entrez en contact avec le **CHRD, l'Éducation permanente** *(Sabtuan Continuing Education), ou auprès de* **conseillers en formation scolaire** *situés dans les écoles sécondaires ou au Services secondaires aux étudiants du niveau post-secondaire.* **Notez bien, la date-limite pour remettre votre demande est le 16E AVRIL, 2004.**

Additional information may be obtained through either of the following offices:
Renseignements supplémentaires peut être obtenue par l'un ou l'autre des bureaux suivants :

Ms. Caroline Mark, Regional Coordinator
203 Main Street Mistissini, Québec G0W 1C0
phone : (418) 923-3942
fax : (418) 923-3837 • cmark@cscree.qc.ca

Ms. Andrea Kitchen, Recruitment/Administrative Officer
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Chisasibi man injured while hunting

A Chisasibi man is in stable condition at the Montreal General Hospital after an unfortunate snowmobile accident.

David Coonishish, 28, was injured while Moose hunting on Saturday, March 6. He was driving his ski-doo after killing a wolf when he saw moose tracks in the snow and decided to follow them. When the tracks took an abrupt turn, so did he. The quick maneuver resulted in a collision with a tree. The problem it seems is that he forgot about the trailer attached to his ski-doo. Coonishish woke up after an undetermined amount of time, jumped on his idling ski-doo and headed for home.

The incident took place about a half an hour ski-doo ride from his camp, located across the dam from LG-1.

When he got home his wife wanted him to go to the hospital. He refused at first, but on Monday, March 8, he eventually relented and was admitted to the Chisasibi hospital. From there he was airlifted out to the Montreal General Hospital. It was determined that he may have suffered nerve damage and has lost strength in his right side. Tests were ongoing at press time.

What's Next in the New Deal

The proposed new deal with Hydro Quebec has now been ratified by all Cree communities. Cree Grand Council spokesperson Brian Craik says the next step will the official signing of the new agreement. "It's possible it will come in the middle of the month," Craik said. "There will be no changes made to the agreement."

Although some communities expressed concerns over the pact, no wording changes or additional clauses were deemed necessary to accommodate these.

"The thing that will happen is that the Cree will decide how they are going to administer [the money], a lot of the comments have to do with who is going to benefit from it and how the money is going to be used. That is the kind of thing that the Crees can decide. There is no need for Hydro-Quebec to bless any of that" said Craik.

Once the deal is signed, the way will be paved for the first $7 million payment on April 1. Then the communities can put in their requests to have projects funded.

Tough sledding at Ivakkak 2004

The fourth annual Inuit dog sled race, the Ivakkak, has a new winner in Peter Kiatainaq from Kangiqsujuaq.

Kiatainaq started the race with a narrow lead but had to fend off a strong challenge from second-place finisher Junior May of Kuujuak. Kiatainaq fell to second place on day three but regained the lead on day four and brought his dogs in to win with a time of 28 hours, 20 minutes and 52 seconds. Junior May finished at 28:40:16. Tamusi Sivuaraapik of Puvirnituq finished third, with a time of 30:55:54.

There were no problems with the race this year, with the exception of one dog having to be put down on the first day due to excessive injuries after his rope snagged on a piece of ice, causing him to be snapped back. There was a little fighting between the dogs, but that is considered normal.

Makivik, a corporation representing the Inuit of Nunavik, organized the dog team race to pass through various communities in 2001. Other organizations (Air Inuit and the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Quebec among others) threw in their support and Ivakkak was born. Ivakkak is an Inuit word that means, "When the dogs are at their best pace." Nine teams participated in the first race, while this year saw 15 teams taking part.

There are many rules for this race, including the stipulation that only purebred Inuit husky dogs are allowed to race, Siberian huskies or blue-eyed dogs are not. Only Inuit beneficiaries of Nunavik and Nunavut can participate.

The emphasis is on fair play with zero tolerance for cruelty to the dogs, which warrants immediate disqualification. If one team helps another, a sportsmanship compensation in the form of a time reward will be given. There is also zero tolerance for drug and alcohol use during the race. This year, both Tamusi Sivuaraapik and Junior May received sportsmanship awards for their dedication to fair play.

Other awards included Rookie of the Year to Juusipi Qisiiq of Kangiqsujuaq; Avataq Cultural Institute Award to Willie Cain Jr. of Tasiujaq, and Veteran of the Year to Harry Okpik of Quaqtaq. Okpik's story is an extraordinary one as he only has one leg! This was the third year he took part in the race and his goal of finishing in the top five was met. He participates to show others that people with disabilities can do anything they want.

The Ivakkak has the ability to close down an entire town as everyone rushes out to see the racers. The race has had its desired effect, which was to bring back the pure bred husky dogs which were nearly extinct in Nunavik just a few years ago, and revive traditional dog sledding.

Waswanipi Cree First Nation

JOB POSTING
Public Works Supervisor

The Waswanipi Cree First Nation Council is presently seeking for a highly motivated individual for the position of Public Works Supervisor.
The core function of the Public Works Supervisor is to manage and direct the department's objectives as determined by the people under the direct supervision of the Director of Community Development. The Public Works Supervisor is to monitor the community's water distribution, sewage system, repairing damages and/or deterioration to all public buildings and implementing preventive measures for the security of employees and general public.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Two year College Diploma or University program; minimum of five years related experience and/or training; or the equivalent combination of education and experience
- Must have a valid class 5 driver license but other classes will definitely be an asset;
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- Must be able to speak Cree, English and French

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SALARY: According to Qualifications and the Salary scale

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SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO:
Ms. Naomi Awashish
Director of Human Resources
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
Diom Blacksmith Building
Waswanipi, Quebec
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Waswanipi Cree First Nation

JOB POSTING
Heavy Equipment Mechanic

The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi is presently seeking for a resourceful and a highly motivated individual for the position of Heavy Equipment Mechanic under the Equipment Division Department.
The core function of the Heavy Equipment Mechanic is to repair, troubleshoot, adjust, overhaul and maintain heavy duty equipment used in construction, transportation, material handling, landscaping, land cleaning and similar activities. The Heavy Equipment Operator will be responsible to diagnose faults or malfunctions using various testing equipment to determine the extent of repairs required and replace defective parts, clean, lubricate and perform other routine maintenance work on equipment.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Vocational Diploma in Heavy Equipment Mechanic; or two to four years related experience in an apprenticeship program and /or training; or the equivalent combination of education and experience.
Must be able to speak Cree, English, French would be an asset; Must have good communication skills; Ability to write daily reports and/or business correspondences.

PLACE OF WORK:
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
STATUS: Full-Time
SALARY: According to Qualifications and the Salary scale

POSTING DATE:
March 15, 2004 to April 16, 2004

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:
Ms. Naomi Awashish
Director of Human Resources
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
Diom Blacksmith Building
Waswanipi, Quebec
J0Y 3C0

Telebec hiring Crees

by Steve Bonspiel

Technicians David Coonishish of Chisasibi and Luke Mianscum of Mistissini

The Quebec-based telecommunications company Telebec has embarked on a new relationship with the people of Eeyou Istchee. The recent hiring of David Coonishish in Chisasibi and Luke Mianscum in Mistissini for Telebec's business and residential installation and repair team represents a change in the industry's practices when dealing with the north.

In the past, non-natives were the only ones to service northern Quebec. But Telebec is leading the way in changing that reality. The reason there were no Cree working for Telebec in the past is not for lack of trying, according to Norm Kelly, the Director General for First Nations Business Relations. "For whatever reason there weren't any applications from the Cree," says Kelly, who has been in the industry for 30 years. That's when Telebec created Kelly's position a couple years ago to facilitate the hiring of Crees.

These new employees will "give those two communities better and faster service. Now we have technicians within the community who can service the communities with a minimal waiting period," stated Kelly.

David Coonishish, 28, began training last September and became a full time employee in January. He says that one of the most difficult adjustments is getting the people, especially the elders, to trust him.

A typical day includes trouble shooting, installing lines, data entry and various other tasks, says Coonishish.

The job is difficult at times due to the amount of hours spent traveling, along with being away from his wife and two kids for prolonged periods of time. "I had to adjust my family life because I had to be out of town so many times. I sometimes have to travel to Waskaganish, Eastmain, or Wemindji. It was hard on the kids in the beginning."

The drive from Chisasibi to Waskaganish is between six and seven hours.

Despite the occasional hardship, Coonishish enjoys it immensely and likes the prestige that comes with working for Telebec.

His hiring has caught people in Eeyou Istchee off guard. They are not used to seeing one of their own drive a Telebec truck. Coonishish's expertise and sense of humour has helped to put them at ease. "One time a guy stopped me on the road and asked me what I was doing with that truck. I told him that the white guy is tied up in the back," Coonishish joked.

Coonishish was chosen for the job in part because he had extensive previous experience working as a computer technician in the community.

"I like the job very much, it's very interesting," Coonishish said. "Everyday is different, whether it be the problem I have to fix or the place I have to work. The people of Chisasibi are very happy to see that I'm Cree and working for Telebec. In the past, there were language barriers when dealing with some elders who didn't speak English or French. I can communicate with them in Cree and they appreciate that."

Luke Mianscum loves being outside and working within his community. He worked for 10 years with Misti cable in Mistissini and is used to the more physical aspects of his new job like climbing a telephone pole in freezing temperatures.

"I enjoy working outside and I like working for Telebec because they have great benefits," he said.

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The *Commission scolaire de la Baie-James*, is proud to be a *Cree School Board's* partner and participate at the education and traning for the First Nations living in Northern Quebec.

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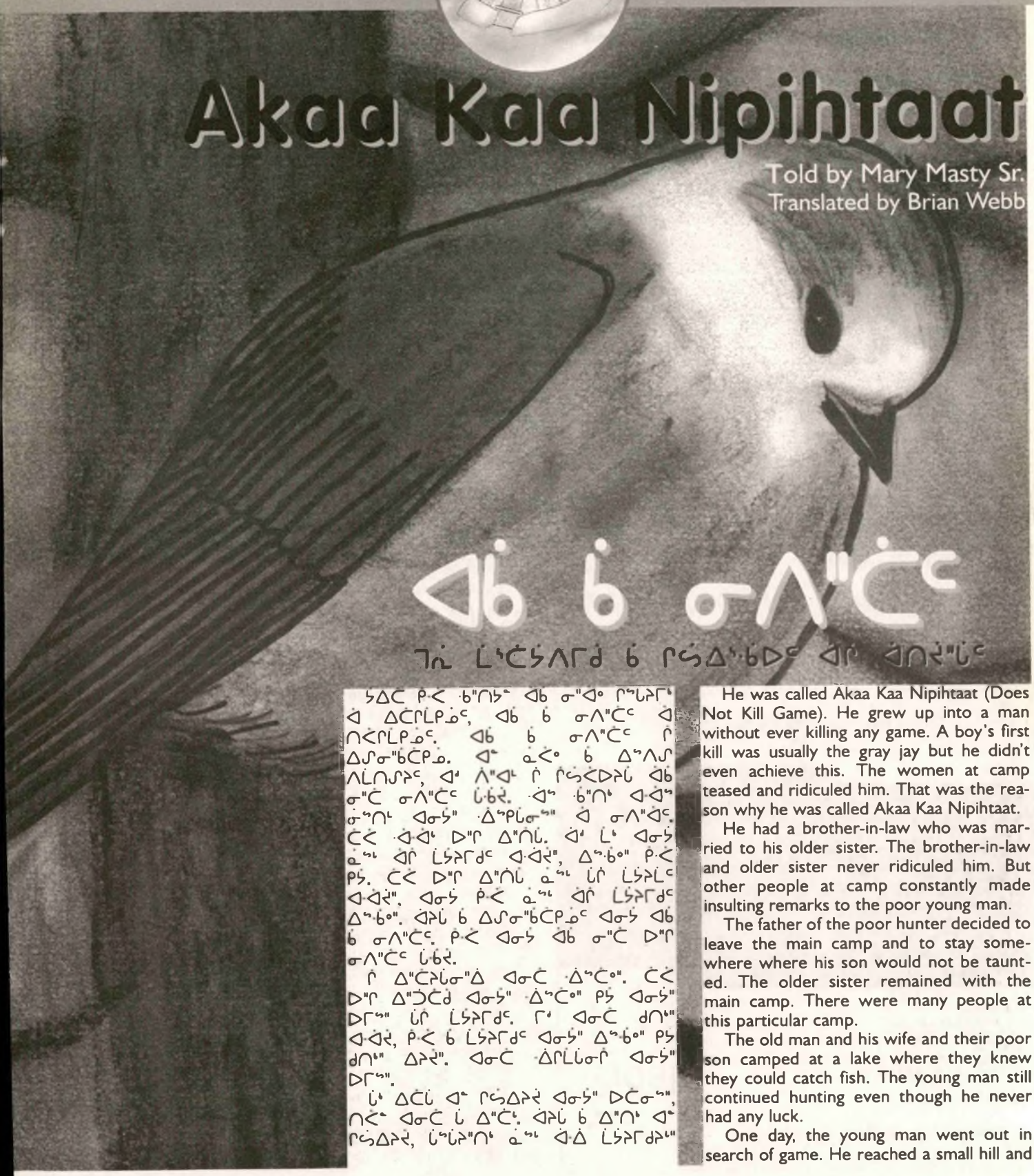

Akaa Kaa Nipihtaat

Told by Mary Masty Sr.
Translated by Brian Webb

ᐊᒃ ᖃ ᓂᐱᖅᑕᑦ

ᒪᓗ ᒪᓕᒃᓴᐱᒋᔭᐅ ᖃ ᑭᓴᐃᓕᒃᑐᓂ ᐊᑎ ᐊᑎᓯᖏᓐᓄᑦ

ᓴᐃᑦ ᑭᓯ ᑲᖏᑎᓕᒃ ᐊᒃ ᓂᖏᐊᑉ ᑭᓐᓇᓴᒥᓕ ᐊ ᐃᑦᑕᒪᒫᓄᑦ, ᐊᒃ ᖃ ᓂᐱᖏᑦ ᐊ ᑎᐸᑕᒪᒫᓄᑦ. ᐊᒃ ᖃ ᓂᐱᖏᑦ ᑭ ᐃᔪᓂᖏᖅᑕᒫᓄ. ᐊᓐ ᓇᐸᐤ ᖃ ᐃᓐᐱᔪᓂᓕᓴᓇᑦ, ᐊᑉ ᐱᖏᐊᑉ ᑭ ᑭᓐᓴᐸᐅᓴᓇ ᐊᒃ ᓂᖏᑦ ᓂᐱᖏᑦ ᑎᖃᓵ. ᐊᓐ ᖃᖏᑎ ᐊᐊᓐ ᓂᓐᑎᑉ ᐊᓂᔭᖏᓐᓄᑦ ᐊ ᓂᐱᖏᑦ. ᑕᐸ ᐊᐊᑉ ᐅᖏᑭ ᐃᖏᑎᑎ. ᐊᑉ ᓚᑉ ᐊᓂᔭ ᓇᓐᓂᑉ ᐊᑭ ᓚᓴᐸᒥᓄᑦ ᐊᐊᓵᖏ, ᐃᓐᖃᐤ ᑭᐸ ᑭᔾ. ᑕᐸ ᐅᖏᑭ ᐃᖏᑎᑎ ᓇᓐᓂᑉ ᓚᑭ ᓚᓴᐸᒥᓄᑦ ᐊᐊᓵᖏ. ᐊᓂᔭ ᑭᐸ ᓇᓐᓂᑉ ᐊᑭ ᓚᓴᐸᒥᓄᑦ ᐃᓐᖃᐤ. ᐊᐸᑎ ᖃ ᐃᔪᓂᖏᖅᑕᒫᓄᑦ ᐊᓂᔭ ᐊᒃ ᖃ ᓂᐱᖏᑦ. ᑭᐸ ᐊᓂᔭ ᐊᒃ ᓂᖏᑦ ᐅᖏᑭ ᓂᐱᖏᑦ ᑎᖃᓵ.

ᑭ ᐃᖏᑕᐸᓂᖏᐃ ᐊᓂᑕ ᐃᓐᑕᐤ. ᑕᐸ ᐅᖏᑭ ᐃᖏᑐᐃᓐᓇᓂᐃ ᐊᓂᔭ ᐃᖏᑎᑎ ᐅᖏᑭ ᐅᒥᓐᓄᑦ ᓂᑭ ᓚᓴᐸᒥᓄᑦ ᑭᐸ ᐊᓂᔭ ᐊᐊᓵᖏ, ᑭᐸ ᖃ ᓚᓴᐸᒥᓄᑦ ᐊᓂᔭ ᐊᒃ ᐃᓐᖃᐤ ᑭᐸ ᐃᔪᓂᖏᖅᑕᒫᓄᑦ ᐊᐊᓵᖏ. ᐃᓐᖃᐤ ᖃ ᐃᓐᐱᔪᓂᓕᓴᓇᑦ ᐊᓂᔭ ᐊᒃ ᐃᓐᖃᐤ ᑭᐸ ᐃᔪᓂᖏᖅᑕᒫᓄᑦ ᐊᐊᓵᖏ. ᐃᓐᖃᐤ ᑭᐸ ᐃᔪᓂᖏᖅᑕᒫᓄᑦ ᐊᓂᔭ ᐊᒃ ᐃᓐᖃᐤ ᑭᐸ ᐃᔪᓂᖏᖅᑕᒫᓄᑦ ᐊᐊᓵᖏ.

He was called Akaa Kaa Nipihtaat (Does Not Kill Game). He grew up into a man without ever killing any game. A boy's first kill was usually the gray jay but he didn't even achieve this. The women at camp teased and ridiculed him. That was the reason why he was called Akaa Kaa Nipihtaat.

He had a brother-in-law who was married to his older sister. The brother-in-law and older sister never ridiculed him. But other people at camp constantly made insulting remarks to the poor young man.

The father of the poor hunter decided to leave the main camp and to stay somewhere where his son would not be taunted. The older sister remained with the main camp. There were many people at this particular camp.

The old man and his wife and their poor son camped at a lake where they knew they could catch fish. The young man still continued hunting even though he never had any luck.

One day, the young man went out in search of game. He reached a small hill and

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ᐅᒍ ᐊ ᐃᓕᓴᐅ ᐃ ᐅ ᑭᕆᐃᓗᐊᖅ. ᐊᐃᑭᑭᓐᑎᑦ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐊ ᑭᓐᓇᓕᓐᑎᑦ ᕿᑭᐃᑭᓂᔪ ᐊ ᓂᒪᕆᔨᓂᖅ. ᒡᒐ ᓇᓐᔨᑐ ᐃᓕᑦ ᐅᓪᓗ ᐃᓕᓐᑎᑦ ᐊᓂᔪ ᐊ ᐃᓕᓐᑎᑦ ᓇᒐᐅ ᐊ ᑭᑐᓕᐅ ᐊ ᓂᑐᓕᐅ. ᓇᓐᔨᑐ ᓂᒥ ᐃᓕᑦ ᐅᓕᑦ ᐃᓕᓐᑎᑦ. ᒥᐟ ᐊᐅᑲ ᓂᓕᒍ ᐊᐱᓕᑎᑦ ᑎᓚᐅᖅ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐊ ᐃᓕᓐᑎᑦ.

ᑎᑦ ᓂᔨᑐᓐ ᑎᑐᓕᒡ. ᐊᓂᒍ ᐱᓐᓚᓐᓚᓂᕆᑦ, ᐊᐱᑎᑦ ᐊᓂᒍ. ᐊᓂᒍ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐃᓂᓕᓐᓂᔨᒪᔭᓐᓇᖅᑐᐃᑦ ᒥᑐᓂᓕᑦ ᐅᒥᓇᓕᑎᓂᓕᐃᑦ. ᓇᓐᔨᑐ ᐊ ᑭᓐᓇᕆᑦ, ᐊ ᒥᑦᐱᓐᓚᓂᕆᑦ. ᑎᑦ ᐃᒡᓕᔭᐱᑎᒪᔭᑎᑦ, ᐊᓂᒍᕆᔭᐱᑎᒪᔭᑎᑦ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐊᓚ ᓂᓕᓐᓂᑦ ᐃᒡᓕᔭᐱᑎᒪᔭᑎᑦ. ᐃᓂᓕᓐᓂᔨᒪᔭᑎᑦ, ᒡᒐ ᐃᓂᑦ ᐃ ᒪᓂᓐᐳ ᓇᒡᓕᐅᓇᓕᑎ ᐊᓚ ᐊᐃᐃᓐᓂᑦ ᓂᓐᓚᓐᓂᑦ ᑎᑦᓇᒥ. ᐃᒡᓕᔭᐱᑎᒪᔭᑎᑦ ᐃᓐᓇᐅᖅ ᐊ ᐃᒡᓕᔭᐱᑎᒪᔭᑎᑦ ᐊ ᓂᓐᓚᓐᓂᑦ ᑎᑦᓇᒥ. ᒪᑐᑎᑦ. ᐊᓂᒍ ᐅᑎᓐᑎᐱᐃᓐ" ᐃᓐᓇᐅᖅ ᐊ ᐃᒡᓕᔭᐱᑎᒪᔭᑎᑦ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐃᓂᓕᓐᓂᔨᒪᔭᑎᑦ ᐅᑎᓐᑎᐱᐃᓐ" ᓂᑐᓐᑐᑦ. ᐊᓂᒍ ᐃᓐᓇᐅᖅ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐊᓂᒍ ᐃᓂᓕᓐᓂᔨᒪᔭᑎᑦ ᐅᑎᓐᑎᐱᐃᓐ"

sat down on top, leaning against a tree. His mind began to fill with sadness because he never had any luck as a hunter. He wondered why he was made into a man since he never killed any game. The women were even better hunters than he was. He began to cry. He threw away his bow and arrows. He sat there and cried. After crying for a long time, he drifted into sleep.

A few gray jays happened to fly by and noticed the young man sleeping. The gray jays called out, "We discovered a man." The gray jays were announcing the existence of the man to all the game.

When a child is born, the gray jays are the first to know and announce the birth to all game. When a boy is born, the gray jays announce it by saying, "It's a boy. We'll be fed scraps." When it's a girl, they say, "It's a girl. We'll be able to warm up."

As the gray jays announced the existence of this poor man, the man woke up. Animals began making their way to the man. All the animals gathered around and instructed the man where to find them. The fish said that it would be in the man's pinky finger. The caribou told him that it would be in the man's breastbone. The bear told him that it would be in the palm of his hand. The moose told him that it would be in his index finger. All the animals told the man where they would be.

The game apologized to the man because they didn't know he had been born. The masters of all game also came to the man to advise him how to kill game. Forest Woman also came to the man and told him that the women of the camp would not tease him anymore. She also mentioned that if the women at the camp bothered him too much, he could come live with her. He agreed.

After all the game had instructed the man, they all left. The man picked up his bow and arrows and returned back home. The gray jays didn't stop flying around the man. He shot two of the gray jays with his arrows and killed them.

He returned home with the two birds in hand. The old man was filled with joy to see his son bring back game and he told his wife, "Our son has returned with food." The old woman was also very delighted and took the birds and cleaned them right away. She boiled the tiny birds in her large cooking pot. They knew that their son's luck had changed.

After the small meal, the young man told his mother to prepare the fishnet to be set. The old woman attached the floats and sinkers to the net and gave it to her son. The young man left and set the fishnet. As he finished setting his net, he said, "Where are you? You said that you would be in my pinky finger." Before he could let go of his fishnet, he felt fish already caught in his net. He proceeded to check the net. He had already caught many fish. He took the fish home and both his parents were so glad to see their son finally a successful hunter. They feasted on fish.

In the morning, the young man left to go hunting. He saw a large herd of caribou and killed them. He also killed many ptarmigan. The old man and woman were both very happy; they could not contain their joy. The small family moved their camp to the site where the caribou were. They had so much food that they couldn't move around. There also was plenty of fish.

The next day, the young man left to go hunting and killed a bear. He also killed many more ptarmigan. The old woman was busy cleaning the ptarmigan. It seemed as thought the caribou simply appeared before the man and was very easy for him to kill them. He continuously dragged game back to the camp. Their camp was filled with food.

The old woman made a beautiful coat for her son, made from the caribou fur. She also made an amulet for him to wear, made from the neck patch of long fur from the caribou.

The old man told his son to fetch his older sister at the main camp. The main camp was not far. Summer was starting and he didn't need a canoe to go to the main camp.

As the young man approached the main camp, the women saw him coming. They announced, "Akaa Kaa Nipihtaat has arrived."

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Now, the women had different ideas for the man they used to ridicule. All the women talked amongst each other saying, "I will be his wife." But the young man didn't take notice to their advances.

The entire camp remained at that site since there was so much food to prepare and skins to clean. Winter settled in and they were still camped at the same place.

The women's constant advances frustrated the young man. One day, the young man told his mother that he would leave camp for several days. He left camp and he had Forest Woman on his mind. The two of them began living together.

The young man stayed away from the main camp for several days at a time to live with Forest Woman. He had no desire to marry any of the women at camp since they used to tease him and ridicule him.

It was said that when the young man's father died, that was when he did not return to the camp. He lived where the caribou are. The Cree people said that the caribou lived in a very large mountain far away. The trail leading from inside the mountain is very well trodden.

Shamans long ago mentioned seeing that mountain on spiritual voyages and seeing the man at the mountain. Even when the shaking tent ceremony was performed, the spirit of Akaa Kaa Nipihtaat was heard talking from the shaking tent and said that it was he at the mountain of caribou. This was the legend I heard my grandfather telling of Akaa Kaa Nipihtaat.

Translator's Notes: It is believed that game offers itself willingly to deserving and respectful hunters; since the game didn't know about the young man's existence, the game didn't offer itself. The spirit of the game entered the young man's body so it would be very easy to him to ask for the game to appear.

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts which last year invested $21.7 million in writing and publishing throughout Canada.

Nous remercions de son soutien le Conseil des Arts du Canada, qui a investi 21,7 millions de dollars l'an dernier dans les lettres et l'édition à travers le Canada.

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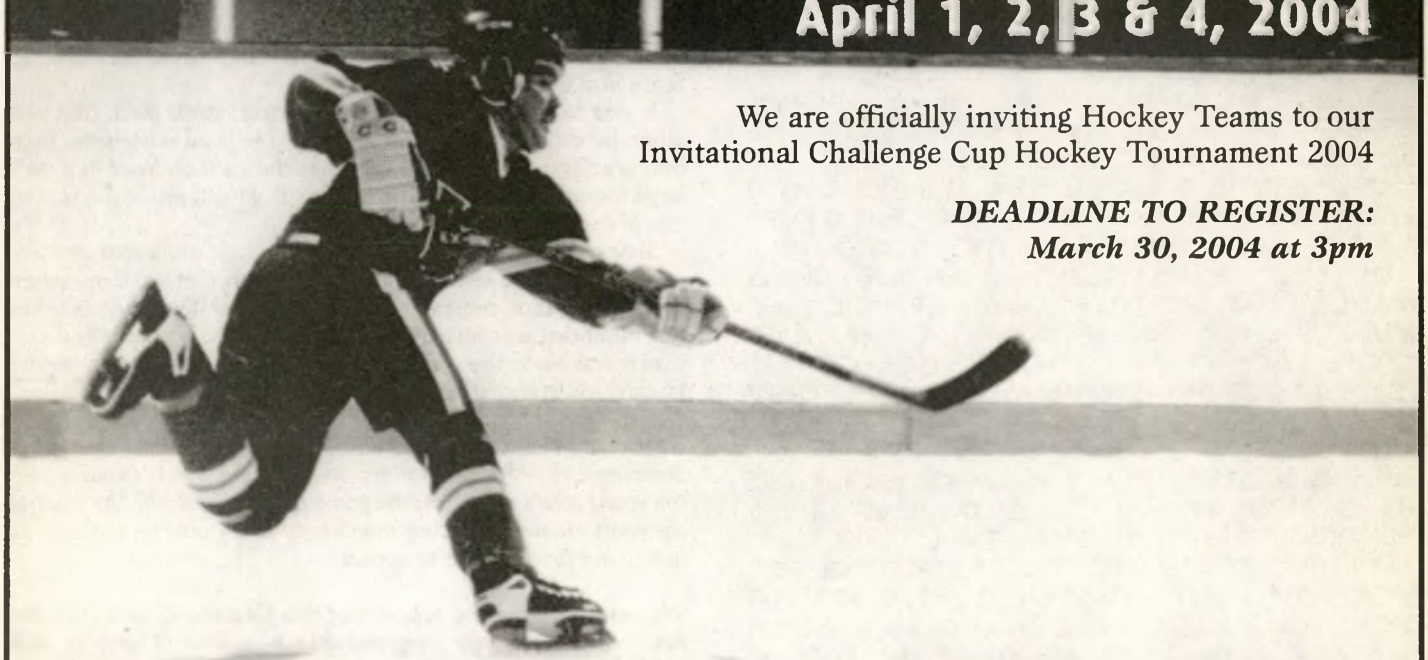

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			'C' $ 3,000.00	$ 1,500.00
Women's Hockey	4/6	$1,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 2,000.00
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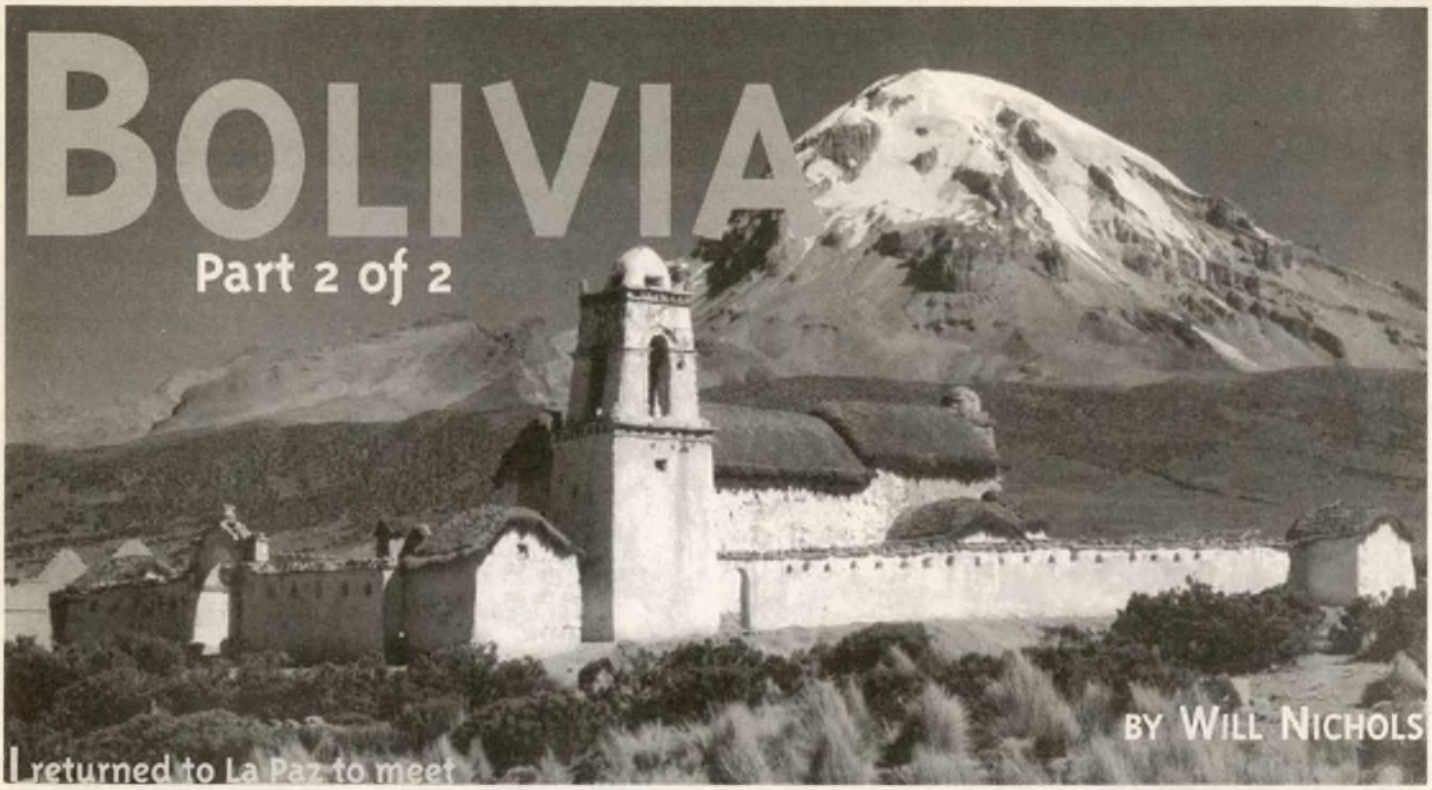

BOLIVIA

Part 2 of 2

BY WILL NICHOLS

I returned to La Paz to meet with the members of the Canadian Consulate. Sharon Armstrong and Gustavo Bracmonte were extremely helpful. The Consulate told me that Bolivia was an "area of interest" for Canada. There are only nine such areas in all for the world. This means that Canada is singling Bolivia out for special attention and assistance. This is because of the poverty, gender inequality, concerns over the environment and other social and economic factors in Bolivia. Armstrong informed me that there was even a program to assist business partnerships between Aboriginal peoples in Canada and Aboriginals in Bolivia. I would recommend doing business there if anyone is interested. The costs of setting up a business are far less than doing so in Canada. One person I had talked to spent $50,000 creating a bar and restaurant. It was a high-end business and highly successful. The initial money included all work, equipment, furniture and stock. A partner who is from the area though is essential. There are many programs that will assist you besides the Indigenous partnership Participation Program. There are programs that will help you create business plans and assist you in either importing or exporting goods. Bolivia is wide open and ready for business.

Another man who echoed this sentiment was Mateo Laura Canqui, the Prefect of La Paz province. A prefect is the equivalent of a premier in Canada. He was also one of the few Aboriginal politicians in Bolivia in a high position of power. Canqui rose through the ranks of grassroots movements helping farmers and natives. He was one of the few politicians that has campaigned vigorously against corruption. When first asked about corruption he said that there were departments within the Bolivian government I could talk to. I explained that in Rurrenabaque a former prefect had been pointed out to me. The man owned several businesses in the area and I had been told he obtained them by using diverted funds. "He was corrupt and this is his reward," I was told. I wondered how Canqui was doing with all the bureaucrats that might have been a part of it. He said, "There is a problem but since we know it is there we can work to make it less."

Canqui told me that he welcomed joint ventures with Canadians and Aboriginal people in particular. "Bolivia and La Paz are a place of opportunity. We wish to make it a place of opportunity for all," said Canqui. He sees wisely managed foreign investment and joint ventures as necessary for the growth of the Bolivian economy.

Then it was off to another Native community. The road would turn from paved to dirt. I felt like I was back in Cree country and had a small moment of nostalgia. It turns out, though, that only 5 per cent of roads in Bolivia are paved so the dirt road is a normal thing. You have to be careful traveling by road. It has one of the highest rates of road accidents and deaths in South America. This includes tour buses. During the week I was there a bus had crashed and killed 17 people.

I would be traveling by four wheel drive, however. This trip would be to explore and learn about a mountain community where a Canadian organization, the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (known by its French acronym CECI) were helping Natives from the community of Oruno to market weaved products made from Alpaca wool. CIDA was providing the funding while CECI provided the personal. Co-operation does happen... at least outside of Canada. The alpaca is a close relative of the llama and its wool is used for hats, scarves and sweaters.

You can see it is a hard land but beautiful in its own way. People living here

A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ◆◆◆

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The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON BREAST CANCER SCREENING IN EEYOU ISTCHEE

Breast cancer affects women in Eeyou Istchee each year. If breast cancer can be discovered early, when the tumour is small, the chances for a cure are better.

The Cree Health Board will be starting a program of breast cancer screening that invites women between 50 to 69 years old to have a mammogram (x-ray of your breasts) every two years. The goal of the program is to reduce deaths from breast cancer by 25% over a ten-year period.

The Cree Health Board breast cancer-screening program will start in three phases:

- PHASE I: INLAND: Women will be invited to go to the Chibougamau hospital for a mammogram this spring, 2004.
- PHASE II: WHAPMAGOOSTUI: A special mammogram machine will be flown into the community: winter 2004-2005.
- PHASE III: COASTAL: A mobile mammogram machine will be driven into each of the coastal communities: winter 2004-2005.

All Eeyou women between the ages of 50-69 yrs old will receive a letter inviting them to take an appointment at their local clinic at the time the screening becomes available for women from their community.

For more information, please contact your clinic or Michelle Gray, RN (450) 479 6615.

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earn about $400 a year. The infant mortality rate is high. Only 66 per cent live past their second birthday. The soil is hardy but supports mostly grasses. Over 200 varieties of potatoes are grown in the area. The people living in the area though are a tough resilient people, not unlike the Cree. They were curious about who the intruders were,when we came into the community, but as soon as we established our bonafides we were welcomed with open arms.

The Alpaca Project was started in 1994 with a budget of $2 million over a five-year period. It allowed the alpaca breeders to form a co-op and develop markets. Before the co-op the wool buyers would treat the breeders like dirt but the co-op voice brought results and respect. Market prices weren't at the buyer's whim anymore. The breeders had more power when they negotiated and this allowed them to create a standard for alpaca and llama wool. A few looms were brought and they began to make clothing. What they didn't sell they could wear. The project was a success by anyone's standards.

But Dianne Vachon of CECI says more is needed. They have approached CIDA for $5.2 million for another five-year project. This one will include the participation of five provinces. CECI says this will develop the whole sector in lama and alpaca production and will ultimately allow the breeders a say in local economic development. The breeders will have economic and political power and this will contribute to a decentralization of power.

But besides combating poverty Bolivia has other problems. Its reputation as a cocaine-producing country in the early 1990s hurt relations with the US. Many Bolivians blame the US for a record 20% unemployment rate in 1999. Many see Bolivia's main problem as the partition between businessmen with all the modern amenities and the other half who are basically subsistence-level peasants. Perhaps this is what sparked the riots in October over a pipeline that would carry natural gas northwards. The political and social situation in Bolivia exploded with deaths and a change in government. Carlso Mesa would take the reins of power. Tensions are still high and the situation is still far from being resolved. Anti-Western attitudes are high. A Canadian non-governmental organization's office in Caranavi was destroyed by an unknown militant force. Fortunately the office was vacant at the time. A lot of problems are happening in

Chapare, an area about half the size of Nova Scotia. It is in this area that the coca growers are resisting the Bolivian government's attempt to stop coca production. Though in the past there were few casualties, at least nine soldiers have been killed and 91 wounded making this an area to stay clear of for tourists. Since the soldiers are US-trained there is plenty of anti-Western sentiment in that area.

Throughout this all Bolivia remains a country of focus or concentration for Canada. That status means that interested parties will be able to access Consulate help and CIDA programs and expertise in setting up businesses there.

I learnt that the new prefect of the La Paz province was Nicolas Quenta Ticona. I wish Mateo Laura Canqui, the past Prefect, all the best in his new endeavors. I also wish to thank the Canadian Consulate and staff in Bolivia for all their assistance. They went out of the way to help me understand the politics and situation in Bolivia. I can hardly wait to return.

x((x((x((O))x))x))x

Travel Tips:

You should:

a) carry a Canadian passport for all visits outside Canada;
b) keep a photocopy of your passport's identification page with you;
c) carry passports, tickets, and money separately;
d) keep valuables and passports safe and carry only enough money for anticipated expenses;
e) leave a copy of your itinerary and proof of citizenship with family and/or friends;
f) carry legally certified documentation signed by both parents permitting a child under 18 to travel alone or with an adult (i.e. a relative or teacher), or carry legally certified documentation from the absent parent if only one parent escorts the child, in addition to a copy of any separation or divorce decree or death certificate; and
g) not visit unknown or isolated areas without first obtaining information or assistance.

x((x((x((O))x))x))x

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Khayden with Sister Kiana and Niece Kayla

In Appreciation of Your Love and Support

by Ronnie Otter

On Thursday morning March 4, 2004 at 8:00AM, I went to look for Khayden in his room at the Montreal Children's hospital. The attending nurse informed me that he was in the physiotherapy room being attended by the physiotherapist. I went to the room where he was getting his treatment and called out to him. Khayden…

With one of his eyes opened I noticed that he was actually responding! In Cree, I excitedly called out Khayden Joomshoom nee. Attempting to turn towards me his eyes sparkled and I excitedly called out to him again. Suddenly there was a muffled cry and as I lovingly looked at my grandson, a tear began to roll down his cheek. It was there and then that three weeks of pent up emotions began to pour out. It was there that the tears of joy began to flow from my eyes. The physiotherapist, noticing the tears in Khayden's eyes cried out 'look Khayden is crying! As I lovingly held Khayden's hand I bent over and whispered 'Thank you Lord' in his ear.

As I begin this message, I want to take this opportunity to thank the whole Cree Nation and our neighbouring friends for their constant love and support for Khayden, his family, his grand parents, his relatives and community.

We believe in the power of prayer and it is through this and your visits from far and wide that Khayden's journey to recovery has begun.

But where did all this begin?

On Sunday February 8, 2004 the day began with our usual responsibilities coming into play at the store. But unfortunately this day would turn out to be a day would affect the whole Cree Nation.

While at work, we had an urgent call from the emergency child worker who normally took care of our grandson. Her voice clearly indicated that something was wrong with Khayden! Without hesitation, we dropped everything and rushed to the clinic.

Upon arriving at the clinic we were directed to the emergency room where we noticed the doctor and nurse taking emergency measures to sustain and help our grandson.

We were informed that as a result of massive head injuries his condition was critical and that he needed to be rushed to Montreal to get the special medical attention he needed.

We immediately called our daughter Judy, Khayden's mother, who was babysitting in Sudbury and who at the same time was in the process of registering to go back to school. She immediately got on the bus the same night to Montreal, to be at her child's side.

That same night transportation arrangements were made for our family to get to Montreal.

At the same time there was another set back in my life. My aunt Nancy passed on. Unfortunately I was unable to attend my Aunt Nancy's funeral that week due to this crisis. Nancy breastfed me when my mother's breasts failed. She loved me as her own but she left before I could say Good-bye to her. My mother and I will always have fond memories of her.

The following day Judy got to Montreal before we did and had to sign documents to allow the doctors to take the necessary emergency measures to help our grandson Khayden. The trip to Montreal was full of sadness and anxiety. We all cried for Khayden but we knew his fate was in God's hands.

When we got to the hospital we had a meeting with the doctor who explained to us what needed to be done to help Khayden. We were informed that Khayden needed emergency surgery and the part of his skull had to be removed to relieve the pressure due to the swelling of his brain. As this was a delicate situation we were informed that he had a fifty-fifty chance of surviving. With tears of sadness we put all our trust in the hands of the doctors who God entrusted to help Khayden while we assisted them through our prayers.

We spent the night at the hospital in anticipation of the outcome of his surgery. The following morning our hearts were broken to see little Khayden with his head all bandaged up and the tubes sticking out of his body and machines all around him. While it has been a very difficult experience for my daughter, my wife and I want to express to her our love and pride for having the strength and courage not only to face this sad and unfortunate situation but in how she showed her deep love for her son at such a crucial time in his life. `Judy we love you very much and are proud of how you handled yourself.

The arrival of the Rupert family gave us added inspiration and to share special moments with Khayden. It also allowed us to get the extra rest we needed.

One night as I sat with my family at the hospital, words came out of my mouth

JOB OPPORTUNITY

CREE NATION OF CHISASIBI
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Fax: (819) 855-2875

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF POLICE

Core Functions:

Under the direction and supervision of the Director of Police, the Assistant Director of Police supervises the day-to-day activities of the Police operation aimed at ensuring that the community of Chisasibi is provided with effective and efficient law enforcement that meets the needs of the community and the law. To conduct research studies and to recommend strategies and action plans in the areas of crime prevention, investigation, surveillance methods and methods of responding to special situations.

To take on the responsibilities and assume all duties of the Director of Police when absent from the office. To work in collaboration with the department of public safety and the fire brigade. This position requires the individual to supervise over (2) full-time Corporals. To maintain public safety and order. Enforce laws and regulations, investigate crimes and accidents, and arrest criminal suspects. Participate in crime prevention, public information, safety programs and other activities. Supervises and coordinate the work of other Police Officers.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the direction of the Director of Police, supervise the day to day activities of the Police operations:

- Ensure performance standards for all Policing staff and personnel are met
- Prioritizes and delegates assignments on a daily basis
- Acts as key resource for advice, guidance and direction in handling of day to day occurrences
- Ensures timely response to occurrences and proper employment of procedures, techniques and code of ethics
- Ensures departmental law enforcement strategies are being applied
- Monitors performances and recommends disciplinary action

To Conduct research studies and to recommend strategies and action plan in the areas in crime prevention, investigation, surveillance methods, and methods of responding to special situations.

- Complies, analyses and interprets crime statistics, operations data in order to identify patterns and trends
- Gathers data from various community members through formal or informal interviews
- Keep abreast of new developments in all areas of Police technology
- Maintains and updates annually a crime prevention strategy and action plan
- Develops and recommends methods to improve investigations and to conduct surveillance
- Plans and develops strategies to solve cases and coordinator their implementation

To identify the training needs and professionalism for all subordinate staff.

- Along with the Director of Human Resources, assesses training needs of staff on an annually basis
- Along with the Director of Human Resources recommends annual training plan to the Director of Police
- Provides classroom training in law enforcement strategies
- Provides training sessions on the handling of files
- To obtain guidance and direction, to recommend action plans and strategies, provide information on the status of on going investigations
- To discuss occurrences, training requirements and personnel problems

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:

This position requires extensive knowledge and training in the application of law enforcement practices, crime prevention strategies, sound supervisory skills, human resource management skills in delegating and monitoring assignments.

Ability to maintain a light level or morale amongst staff. Basic knowledge and understanding of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi's policies, political makeup and issues facing the community, as well as knowledge of the territory. Ability to converse in the Cree, English languages and knowledge of French would be an asset.

- A willing to respond to challenging situations
- Possess a genuine desire to improve the quality of life within the community and to involve the Policing decisions
- Demonstrate an awareness of the need to conduct himself with a high degree of professionalism and to adhere to the code of ethics established for this purpose
- Must possess a valid driver's license (4A)
- Must have at least five years experience in Police Work
- Demonstrated capacity for performing work with a high degree of professionalism (tact and discretion) and a willingness to adhere to the code of ethics established for this purpose
- Must be willing to rotate on shifts
- Must be willing to undertake on-going training in order to upgrade Policing skills and techniques

WORKING CONDITIONS

Normal workweek (40 hrs) but must be available twenty four (24) hours a day to respond to a variety of law enforcement situations. Work is moderate to extensive, moderate fieldwork, exposure to highly emotional traumatic and dangerous situations are required in the line of duty and sometimes required to overtime. Work is considerably stress associated with deadlines and investigating cases.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Secondary V graduate or the equivalent recognized by the Ministry of Education of Quebec
- A University Degree in criminology or a college program in law and security
- Good knowledge of the community and Cree culture

SALARY

According to Salary Scale and experience

Applicant should send their resumes to the office of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi to the attention of:

Barbara Spencer Zephyrine
Director of Human Resources
Cree Nation of Chisasibi
P.O. Box 150
Chisasibi, Qc J0M 1E0

Tel (819) 855-2878
Fax (819) 855-2875

End of Posting: March 23, 2004

which took everyone by surprise, You know, we have all been praying and asking the Lord to help and heal Khayden. If we want the Lord to hear our prayers, we have to pray and forgive what happened to Khayden. As tears filled the eyes of my wife and daughter we prayed and forgive and asked the Lord to heal our grandson. As our prayer filled the room we knew the good Lord was sitting beside us and touched the little boy in the next room. We continue to shed tears for Khayden but know with each tear there is hope.

On February 12, 2004 Khayden went through a scan to determine the extent of his injuries. In explaining the results, the doctor informed us that she would tell us what we had to know and that she would not make any promises or raise expectations.

She explained that Khayden had sustained sever brain damage and that the physical and movement abilities would be limited. There was a possibility that he may not come out of his coma for three months. While it hurt to hear this news we knew we had to accept it and maintain our faith.

During the time we spent at the hospital we had many calls from different media groups, for a story. Because of the emotional stress we were all going through we were reluctant to issue any statements related to our grandson's ordeal or condition. As a family we felt that it was not the appropriate time to do so.

Our little grand daughter Khayden's sister had an opportunity to visit her little brother. As we got up to leave Khayden for the day his sister took him by the hand asked him to wake up. `She said Khayden wake up we are leaving now'. She wanted to see Khayden's eyes open as she left.

While he was in a coma my family and I spent many hours sitting at his bedside always expressing to him our love. Very gradually he began to respond to our voices and we knew that through out prayers and the inspiring messages of hope from the communities that it would be just a matter of time when his eyes would open.

Wednesday February 18, 2004 was the day we fully understood how much love and support was out there for Khayden and our family. The Cree Nation's outpour of support on that day is something that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. Each community had a walk against violence, and I was happy and sad at the same time, knowing this was done for my little grandson. The little yellow ribbon that people wore on their jackets was not only a sign of love for Khayden but also a very strong message about the importance of loving your children. Through this message we believe that Khayden has not only touched many lives, but also has brought many family relationships closer.

February 8, 2004 was when Khayden's traumatic experience began and a month following his ordeal we are happy to say that he is beginning a very delicate journey towards recovery. A critical moment of his recovery will take place when the part of the skill that has been removed, will be put back in place. He is now out of the coma and beginning to show signs of movement in the left domain of his body. On March 5, 2004, after twenty-five days, Judy was blessed with the chance of being able to hold her son in her arms again. Our pride and our love for our daughter strengthened as we watched her take Khayden for a walk with the stroller. Doctors, nurses and patients alike noticed our pride and shared this pride through their smiles and well wishes.

To conclude this message I believe that God has a purpose for Khayden's life. I believe that through the experience of this two-year-old boy that this little boy has something to offer that will change the course of many people's lives in a positive way. God works in wondrous ways and while we may not understand what he has in store for us, we have to continue to have faith.

On behalf of Khayden and our families (Otter and Rupert) one simple word expresses our appreciation...Meegwetch.

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CLASSIFIEDS

100 – BIRTHS

CONGRATULATIONS to my brother Morley Junior and his beautiful girlfriend Stephanie Moar on the birth of their first baby, adorable baby boy Jaymie Joaquin born February 29 in Valdor weighing 8 "9 lbs. Enjoy every little moment cause they grow too quickly...bring him to OJ soon, cause i miss him so much already, and can't wait for him and Konrad to bond, once again congratulations to you both, all my love, your big sister Rachel (proud auntie) and your brother in law Karl Simard (who wants to see the new baby asap) xoxo

Congradulations to Isaac & Elsie Shecapio on the safe arrival of their baby boy Abraham Noah born on March 1/04 in Chibougamau. We were happy he was born during our March break, so we got to visit you guys in the hospital. Hey Myra, little brother has finally arrived eh? May this precious baby bring so much love, joy and happiness to your family. We wish you the very best! Love always, your niece Queenie and Harry (Hull) xoxox

101 – BIRTHDAYS

We would like to say a Happy Belated Birthday's to these people: Larissa Matoush Ottereyes, On March 5th, 2004 in waswanipi...And to my Mom Elizabeth Matoush On March 6th, 2004 in Mistissini, And to my

Brother Donald Matoush on March 7th, 2004 in Mistissini. And to my other Brother Matthew R. Matoush on March 12th, 2004 in Mistissini. And to my Neice Juwanna Duff Happy 1st Belated Birthday on March 7th, 2004. Hope you will all have fun on your Birthday.We really miss you all alot....X.o.X.o.X.o Love Always: Sheila & Elijah Shashaweskum & Charlie Matoush Shecapio

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to my friend and cousin Georgette B. on March 28, 2004. Hope you'll have a blast on your Day. From friends always Clara ans Evander Kway!!

We would like to send Birthday Greetings to a mother and grandmother Anna Wapachee-Petawabano at Perch River, near Mistissini. She will be celebrating her 66th birthday on March 3, 2004. We love you and miss you very much. All the way from Thunder Bay: Lillian, Alexandria, Jaimee and Trey. XOX-OXOXO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY LIL SIS* ON MARCH 6, 2004...(LOL)...Happy 17th B-day Maxine... from moi, Dabweahdamoon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU DAD & to our Grandpa...LUV: CAMERON & LAZ

Happy Birthday to My Big Brother (who sometimes annoys me, *LOL*), John Paul on March 6, 2004 ..I LOVE YOU SO MUCH BRO!!! From Your baby sis, Dabweahdamoon (Waskaganish)

Hey You!...yah you, you reading this one, I just thought i'd let you know that my dad will be celebrating his birthday on March 7, 2004. I LOVE YOU SO MUCH DAD & THANX FOR BEING THERE FOR ME...oh also thanx for letting me have my way sometimes..JK *LOL* ...FROM YOUR BABY GIRL, Dabweahdamoon (wask)

Wishing a happy birthday to our grandfather, Kenneth Salt in Waskaganish, on March 3, 2004. We both miss you very much and we hope to see you soon. We are both doing well, and Simon is doing good in school. Give our love to the rest of the family, especially "Goo-goo". HAPPY BIRTHDAY "GRANDPA". With love, Simon and Dakotah (in Wemindji)

On March 18, 2004... My chubby, adorable nephew Nikolas Kloey James and his family will celebrate his 1st Birthday (in Waswanipi). That day will be a wonderful day for many others...except for me, I haven't seen my nephew for 2 months and it sadly breaks my heart!...What's even worse i won't be there on his 1st birthday (anjabooweah eiish). Kloey I miss you so much and IT SUXX HERE WITHOUT YOU!!!. I LOVE YOU SO MUCH KLOEY...Hope I'll See You ...'SOMEDAY' (go to Val d'Or on your b-day baby) *HINT HINT*..LOL.. SEE YOU THERE!!! (i wish)...LUV ALWAYZ, Your Aunt from Waskaganish that misses you so much, *Dabweahdamoon*

We want to wish our beautiful daughter Melinda Hester, a happy 10th Birthday on March 29, 2004. We love you very much and hope you will enjoy your special day. From: mom and dad (Wask. Que)

Happy 10th Birthday to our sister Melinda on March 29, 2004. We are very glad to celebrate your birthday with you and we want to say we love you. From: Tyler & Jared and your little sister Melanie (Wask. Que)

A belated birthday to Kalene Jewel Blackned on March 7th, 2004. From: All of us at 46 Harricanaw St....Wask Que

A belated birthday to Denis Gilpin on March 7th, 2004é From: your neighbors at Harricanaw St....Wask. Que

We would like to wish birthday wishes to these people Our Father/ Grandfather/ Great grandfather John Shecanapish who will be celebrating his 84th Birthday on March 12, 2004, **On March 3, 2004** Mary-Louise Shecanapish. On March 19th 2004 Darren Einish, last but not least on March 30 2004 Richard Tooma. Once again Happy Birthday to all and many more to come. From: Noat, Byran, Allan, Tanya & Makayla Shecanapish. (Kawawa)

Sending birthday wishes to a special little girl Melody (Shibish) on april 18. 2004. God Bless you & keep you. Love and prayers Larry, Helen, Jr and Joshua

Happy Birthday to my sister Eva on april 25, 2004. Wishing you the best and congratulaions on your journey to recovery keep it up. God Bless you Love always Larry, Helen, Jr. and Joshua

Sending Birthday wishes to Larry on March 22, 2004. Wishing you the best may God Bless you with many more. Love always Helen, Jr. & Joshua

Birthday wishes: Leonda Otter March 26, Judy Otter March 31. You are two wonderful daughters, we don't care how old you are, you have grown into beautiful loving caring daughters in front of the lord. We are proud of you. Love always mom and dad.

A Birthday wish going out to miss Carole-Anns Ottereyes on April 4/04. We can't believe you're turning 3 already, you're too small for that age!(lol). I hope this time you won't run away from your cake when everyone sings for you, like you did the last time. Don't let them scare you! Have a wonderful day and we hope you'll come for a visit again, so we can go up and down on the escalators at Rideau. You enjoyed that very much! We love and miss you very much little gurl! Love always, Harry and Queenie (Hull) xoxox

My precious adorable grandson Nikolas Kloey James Meilleur; as you celebrate your 1st birthday on March 18; may your special day be filled with laughter, love, hugs and kisses and presents tied with ribbons. And as you open each gift; it is given with so much love as it symbolizes that you are like a precious treasure that is to be cherished. Here's to you Niko "HAPPY BIRTHDAY and MANY MORE BIRTHDAYS to come" So much I love you with my heart; from your granny in Waskaganish. Hey! Brant handle "Niko" with care and kiss him for me; Love: mom.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my dad Kenneth Salt who celebrated his birthday on March 3. Once again happy birthday dad & I love you from:your one and only daughter Jasmine

We would like to wish a Happy 1st Birthday to a very special boy whom we lov so much on March 21, his name is Eaden Spring Shecapio-Blacksmith.May you enjoy this day celebrating your 1st birthday & eat lots of cake.Tell mom to take a picture of you blowing out your candle, so she can send it to us.Once again HAPPY BIRTHDAY Eaden, We lov & miss u soooooo much, (we miss your sleep overs) Phil, Jen & Adora

105 – OBITUARY

On the month of March we lost two people in our family. There names are Mary & Jonathan Shecanapish. Thay both had cancer. Mary born: August 9, 1957, died: March 18, 1993. Jonathan born: March 28, 1961, died: March 29, 2000. Heres a poem dedicated to the two of you.

God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not meant to be, so he put his arms around you and whispered 'come to me'. With tearful eyes we watched and saw you pass away, although we loved you dearly, we could not let you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us, he only takes the best. We love you and we miss you. From: the Shecanapish family (Kawawa)

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